

FLOOD AND RAINS UPDATE

 Hotspots	Week in review (30 April-6 May)	Week ahead (7-13 May)	
Juba			
Upper <i>(From Dollow to Baardheere)</i>	<p>Light to moderate rains recorded.</p> <p>River level increased sharply over the last 2 days.</p> <p>River flooding reported in Dollow, Luuq and Bardere.</p>	 	<p>Moderate rainfall forecast in the coming week.</p> <p>Sustained high river levels likely, following moderate rains forecast in the Ethiopian highlands.</p> <p>High likelihood of flash and river flooding to continue.</p>
Lower <i>(from Sakow to Kismayo)</i>	<p>Moderate to heavy rains over many areas.</p> <p>River level very high and river flooding at Buale and downstream areas.</p>	 	<p>Moderate rainfall forecast.</p> <p>Sustained high river levels, following moderate rains forecast in Ethiopian highlands.</p> <p>Flooding expected to worsen especially in Lower Juba.</p>
Bay & Bakool			
Bay	<p>Moderate to heavy rains over many areas.</p> <p>Flooding reported in built up and low lying areas.</p>	 	<p>Moderate to heavy rains forecast.</p> <p>Flash floods foreseen due to expected rains in the region.</p>
Bakool	<p>Moderate to heavy rains over many areas.</p> <p>Flooding reported in built up and low lying areas.</p>	 	<p>Moderate to heavy rains forecast.</p> <p>Flash floods foreseen due to expected rains in the region.</p>
Shabelle			
Upper <i>(from Belad Weyne to Jalaqsi)</i>	<p>Light to moderate rains recorded in scattered places.</p> <p>River level remained very high with overbank spillage at Belet Weyne – town & surroundings inundated.</p>	 	<p>Moderate rains forecast.</p> <p>Flooding situation expected to worsen given moderate rainfall forecast and existing high river levels.</p>
Lower <i>(from Jowhar to Sablale)</i>	<p>Light rains recorded in many stations.</p> <p>River level bankfull at Jowhar.</p> <p>2 major breakages at Maandheere and Bayaxaaw (Jowhar) causing flooding.</p>	 	<p>Moderate rains forecast.</p> <p>Flooding expected to worsen, given the high river levels, moderate rainfall forecast and existing river breakages (if not closed).</p>

 Deterioration,  improvement, or  no change anticipated in flood conditions.

 Heavy,  moderate,  low, or  no rainfall.

IMMEDIATE RURAL IMPACTS

Juba (Riverine agriculture)	
Upper <i>(From Dollow to Baardheere)</i>	Farms along the river are inundated in all districts, with 5 000-6 000 ha of cultivable land under water. Of this, 1 500 ha were under early cultivation and damaged, including 500 ha of early irrigated maize and 1 000 ha of cash crops (onion, tobacco, tomato and watermelon). Most pumps – needed by riverine farmers to irrigate their crops – are lost or damaged. Both flash and river floods have resulted in human and livestock deaths.
Lower <i>(from Sakow to Kismayo)</i>	River floods have also affected offseason crops in the Middle Juba region. In Sakow/Salagla, Buale and north east Jilib, crop losses are estimated at 3 300 ha of maize, 3 200 ha of sesame and 1 500 ha cowpea. With exception of Jilib, most of Middle Juba region is inaccessible: roads are blocked, food imports are not coming in and humanitarian assistance is absent due to increased civil insecurity. Flash floods have damaged the sorghum stock of many traders and better-off farmers. Lower Juba region is mainly impacted by river floods. In Jamame district, for example, 1 000-1 500 ha of farmland are inundated (planted and unplanted lands) and around 500 riverine farming households have been displaced to Jamame town.
Bay & Bakool (Agropastoral)	
Bay	Heavy rains in late April affected agropastoral livelihoods, damaging crops on an estimated 2 510 ha in the following districts: 1 500 ha in Dinsor (Habiibayaal and Gurban), 580 ha Qansahdere (Habaalbarbaar and Manyow) and 160 ha in Burhakaba (Korow Ay Dhuubey). Around 30-50 underground grain storage pits were also flooded, particularly in Dinsor and Qansahdere.
Bakool	Some inundated fields are reported. Continued <i>Gu</i> rains could result in flash floods.
Shabelle (Riverine agriculture)	
Upper <i>(from Belad Weyne to Jalaqsi)</i>	River flood impacts are particularly grave in Belet Weyne town (lack of clean water, shelter and food). In rural Belet Weyne, 4 000-5 000 people have displaced, often to nearby-elevated rural areas. Around 10 000-15 000 ha of cultivable land are underwater and agricultural infrastructure is damaged, including canals, culverts and irrigation pumps. Limited amounts of early irrigated and established crops (maize, sorghum and vegetables) were destroyed by the floods. This in turn has limited agriculture labour opportunities.
Lower <i>(from Jowhar to Sablale)</i>	Overall, an estimated 15 000 ha are under flood water, including 3 500-4 500 ha cultivated with cereals (maize and sorghum) mainly in Lower Shabelle. The remaining 10 500-11 500 ha were being prepared for planting before the floods. An estimated 500 tonnes of sorghum stored in underground pits (household food stocks) have been washed away. More specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>In Middle Shabelle Region</u>, a large river breakage is reported in Mandheere village of Jowhar (a flood-prone area for successive seasons). If the broken site is not repaired soon, the water may cut off the road that connects Jowhar and Mogadishu and increase the price of imported commodities. It could also cause severe damage to standing crops in nearby villages. - <u>In Lower Shabelle Region</u>, flash floods are more severe than river flooding, in part due to heavy breakages upstream in Jowhar. However, significant areas are waterlogged, which will delay planting and likely increase maize off-season crops as well as cash crop cultivation – particularly in rainfed agropastoral areas of the two regions.

RURAL LIVELIHOODS: NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES

Repercussions	Needs	Opportunities
<p>Delayed start of <i>Gu</i> cropping season, harvest and income generation in flooded areas.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous rain and flood updates, to inform on best planting window. • Cash to cover the food needs of poor households during an extended lean season. • Enhanced access to alternative quality crop seeds (e.g. maize, cowpea in rainfed areas). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strategic use of flood water to secure a good <i>Gu</i> harvest. ✓ Traditional sorghum farmers could produce higher value crops “off-season”, e.g. cowpea, maize (usually irrigated) and vegetables. ✓ Extended agricultural labour opportunities and related wages.
<p>Damage to early planted crops, and loss of related investment.</p> <p>Loss of grain stored underground, which can adversely impact local market supply.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely access to on-farm support (e.g. tractor hours, quality seed), and cash assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increased soil fertility and moisture, thereby good crop yield prospects and overall production.
<p>Heightened risk of crop diseases (e.g. tomato blight, leafspots and mildews on beans /cowpea and other fungal diseases)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous monitoring and timely reporting of plant pests and diseases. • Increased awareness on potential crop diseases and training on crop disease management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Floods are a natural mitigation against Fall Armyworm (FAW), and other pests that live in/on ground. ✓ Increase community awareness and mechanical control of FAW: this will have high impact when numbers are low.
<p>Greater risk of livestock morbidity & mortality (also from drowning).</p> <p>Water contamination due to improper carcass disposal.</p> <p>Greater prevalence of vectors (e.g. tsetse flies, mosquitos) and vector-borne diseases (affecting animals & humans).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous monitoring of livestock condition and abnormal change in vector population. • Access to appropriate veterinary drugs & services to control flood-related and vector-borne diseases. • Community-sensitization on good livestock practice during floods and vector borne diseases (early detection and reporting). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regeneration of pasture and water sources, leading also to increased milk yields (for sale and consumption). ✓ Training & equipping additional community animal health workers (especially along the Shabelle), as reinforcement in case of vector-disease outbreak. ✓ LEGS training to government, NGOs and LPAs to increase preparedness for upcoming emergencies.
<p>Loss of fishing gear due to floods.</p> <p>Fish displaced and dying, unable to adapt to change in water levels /characteristics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace lost fishing gear and related equipment. • Cash support to highly vulnerable marginalized households that lost their main food source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Build and distribute <i>houris</i> (canoes) that can be used for fishing, transport or rescue in future flood emergencies. ✓ Good time to place crab traps, shrimp nets, etc., close to estuaries (just before the ocean), where there is massive buildup of crabs, fish and shrimp post-flood. ✓ Easy catching of fish trapped in receding waters, even for those without proper fishing gear, directly benefitting food security and nutrition.
<p>Flooding exacerbated by man-made embankment breakages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive review of river status and appropriate, holistic rehabilitation plan, including improved irrigation water usage & management practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Floods raise awareness and funding for appropriate solutions (e.g. desilt, rebuild embankment at appropriate heights, and reinstate functioning barrages).